

COMMENTARY

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST CBS PRESIDENT

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to address the members of the society in this third report from the past President since the inception of the practice in 1986. It was particularly gratifying to note the response to a comment in last year's report in which Frank Almada expressed concern at the lack of graduate student response to financial support offered by the society to assist with their research. Several inquiries were received. It is nice to know that the membership reads these messages and responds to them.

As seems to be the case each year, the Society, through its Executive Council, faced a number of challenges in the last year. Not the least of these came with the realization that the costs associated with producing and distributing *Madroño* were once again taxing our resources. The Financial Officer estimated that costs associated with the journal would exceed the total income of the Society for the year. Clearly we could not continue on that basis. In an attempt to bring these costs under control and restore the Society to a sound financial status, the Council voted to reduce the number of free pages allotted to members to five (5) per volume. We realized that this would make it difficult for some authors but hope that members will be able use grant funds as well as funds from other sources to continue to publish in the journal. I should point out that for papers having joint authorship, the five page allotment applies for each author who is a member of the society.

One further step taken by the Executive Council this year was to reduce the maximum number of years of eligibility for student membership to five years. This is in line with the student membership period of other organizations and will help reduce the Society's deficit in producing *Madroño*.

By the time you read this the CBS Graduate Student Meetings will have concluded at San Jose State University. These meetings are sponsored by the Society and reinforce our commitment to the research of our graduate student members, recognize their outstanding work, and encourage communication between participating institutions. It is a time-consuming undertaking on the part of the graduate student representative and the Society owes a debt of gratitude to Valerie Haley of San Jose State for her efforts in organizing this year's meeting. These meetings take place at eighteen-month intervals. I encourage members to consider having their institutions host future meetings and, perhaps more important, I urge you to keep the meetings in mind and encourage your graduate students to participate. Papers are presented in categories of Proposed Research, Research in Progress, and Completed Research.

At the November 1987 meeting of the Council, proposals from graduate students for the Society's annual Graduate Student Research Award were reviewed. After consideration of the excellent proposals that had been submitted it was decided to make the award to Samuel Hammer of San Francisco State University for his project entitled *A Taxonomic Survey of the Lichen Genus Cladonia in California*. Mr. Hammer is a student of Dr. Harry Thiers. A check for \$250 was forwarded to Mr. Hammer to help support his investigation. I know that the membership of the Society joins me in offering our congratulations to Mr. Hammer. The procedures for applying for the Graduate Student Research Award are quite simple and I encourage all of the Society's graduate student members to consider submitting proposals to the Council. Requests for information and proposals should be sent to the current President of the Society. Proposals should reach the Society by 1 October each year. Now is the time to be thinking about a proposal for next year.

One final item, our annual banquet in February had the largest turnout in recent memory, thanks in no small measure to the speaker, Dr. Stephen J. Gould. It was a gala evening and enjoyed by all those in attendance. Our thanks to Dr. Peggy Fiedler, First Vice President of the Society for arranging an exciting program. By contrast the interesting monthly programs that Peggy arranged were attended by relatively few

members. This continues a trend of poor attendance that has been noted in recent years. I hope that members in the Bay Area will check the schedule of speakers for the coming year and plan to attend one or more of the regular meetings. It is hard to justify continuing monthly meetings with the present attendance.

It has been an honor for me to serve as President of the California Botanical Society for the past year and I thank you all for your support and advice. I must say, however, that the office of President is not what makes our society work. With the exception of the occasional "fire" the President has to put out, it is the volunteer members of the Executive Council that do all of the day-to-day chores that make things run smoothly. The names of those people are listed inside the front cover. I think that the membership of the Society owes those individuals a debt of gratitude for their hard work, and I know that I do. Thanks to all of you.—DALE W. MCNEAL, Department of Biological Sciences, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA 95211.

ANNOUNCEMENT

NEW PUBLICATIONS

MICKEL, J. T., with contributions by R. McVAUGH, S. KARELL, and H. BALSLEV, Liebmann's Mexican ferns: His itinerary, a translation of his "México's Bregner," and a reprinting of the original work, *Contributions from the New York Botanical Garden*, vol. 19, pp. [i-v], 1-173-[175-350], 27 Oct 1987, ISSN 0736-0509, ISBN 0-89327-324-4, \$30.50 U.S., \$31.75 foreign, postpaid (for address see entry for Austin et al.). [On Frederik Michael Liebmann's (1813-1856) rare 1849 work describing 308 spp., 95 new. Contents: introduction (Mickel); itinerary and gazetteer (McVaugh); the translation (Karell and Balslev); index to the translation; the reprint on pp. 175-end.]

MOZINGO, H., *Shrubs of the Great Basin: A natural history*, University of Nevada Press, Reno, Nevada, 1987, xvii, [ii], 342 pp., 24 pls. (color), illus. (B&W), ISBN 0-87417-111-3 (hardbound), ISBN 0-87417-112-1 (paperbound), prices unknown. [Lengthy, somewhat rambling, occasionally botanically inaccurate (e.g., *Ephedra* "flowers"), but still interesting and quite useful descriptions of 66 spp. in 25 fam.]

WARREN, B., *Wilderness walkers: Naturalists in early Texas*, Hendrick-Long Publishing Co., P.O. Box 25123, Dallas, Texas 75225, 1987, 112 pp., illus., ISBN 0-937460-26-5 (hardbound), \$12.95. [Excellent children's books on seven "walkers," horseback riders, coachmates, and just wanderers across Texas: Berlandier, Drummond, Lindheimer, Wright, Audubon, Roemer, and Lincecum.]